

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for distributing representative images of a plurality of data objects within a database within a partitioned three-dimensional graphical environment is described. According to the apparatus and method an environment is divided into areas bounded by partitions, and groups of representative images are distributed and displayed upon these partitions. In general, distribution of the representative images is achieved by determining weight factors for each partition bounding a given area and determining weight factors for representative images that are to be displayed within the areas upon the partitions and then distributing the images dependent on the comparison of the image weight factors to partition weight factors.